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piece. The maps, however, call to mind those of Mr. Millard's former book, for they show projects and extensions which in many instances are not likely to be realized.

It is a keen disappointment to find Mr. Millard's observation and examination marred by his disregard for accuracy. The world and Japan itself are under obligation to the critics who have pointed out fearlessly and unsparingly Japanese shortcomings and faults. Englishmen and Americans like Bethell, Hurlbert, McKenzie and Millard have shamed the Japanese into making great changes. The Korea of 1910 is not the Korea of 1906-07. It is the greater pity that criticism should weaken itself by wild, unfounded statements.

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MADISON, WISCONSIN.

*Les Mavroyéni : Histoire d'Orient de 1700 à nos jours.* By THÉODORE BLANCARD. Paris, Leroux, 1909. Two volumes : xv, 757, 824 pp.

It is hardly to be assumed that many people will feel tempted to wade through the fifteen hundred and more pages of these ponderous volumes. The book suffers not only from length but from the faults of a good many other family histories—heaviness, prolixity, partisanship and an uncritical use of materials—faults insufficiently compensated by praise-worthy industry. As a rule, such a labor of love as the preparation of a work of this kind is undertaken only by a member of the family described or by some one employed by the family. It may hope for an honorable resting place on the shelves of large libraries, but its sales will perforce be meager.

The family to be glorified in the present instance—the Mavroyéni—can not be called very notable ; indeed, only one member had a really important career, and all the efforts of his biographer can not make him out an attractive character. As for the various other Mavroyéni we are told about, they were mostly respectable officials in Greece, Roumania or Turkey, and of slight interest to the world. The family as a whole does not rank with the well known Fanariot houses claiming ancient descent from the nobles of the Byzantine Empire, for its origin can be traced back only to about the beginning of the eighteenth century, and its connection with the famous Venetian house of Morosini is not supported by much more evidence than the faint similarity between the two names. Pedigrees of this sort have been common enough in history, but the world today is too skeptical to accord them reverence.

Mr. Blancard's volumes, however, despite their faults, have value.

Not only has he ransacked many published works for information about his heroes, but he has printed for the first time a large number of letters concerning them, not to speak of poems and laudatory inscriptions. Although the present reviewer has been unable to discover that this new material contains important revelations, the book is at least a modest contribution to the history of Turkey, and many of the details given are of considerable interest. The first volume, which is the better worth reading of the two, is devoted to the career of Nicholas Mavroyéni. This Greek of rather obscure origin, after becoming interpreter to the Turkish fleet, rose in time, thanks to the active support of his powerful friend, the Admiral Hassan Pasha, to be hospodar or vassal prince of Wallachia, the highest position that could be attained by a Christian in the Ottoman Empire. During the greater part of the eighteenth century the sultans followed the policy of installing as governors of the Roumanian principalities Greeks from the Fanar quarter of Constantinople, who, as strangers, were less likely than the former native rulers to conspire against their sovereign. These Fanariot hospodars, owing their places to favor or corruption and liable at any time to be supplanted, disgraced or perhaps executed, could hardly be expected to be men of the highest character. Their memory is indeed execrated in Roumania to the present day, and this unpopularity often extends to the modern Greeks. Nicholas Mavroyéni, though doubtless no more intriguing, unscrupulous or greedy than his rivals or adversaries, shared the faults of his class, and he was hated by the Roumanian boiars, whom he treated harshly. He also became ridiculously puffed up with his own importance. On the other hand, he was enlightened in his way, had some care for the common people and remained a Greek patriot, true to his faith and helpful to his fellow countrymen. Above all he was energetic, as he showed in the war of 1787-88 with the Russians and the Austrians. When finally, like the other Turkish commanders, he was defeated and was driven from his province, his enemies at home profited by their chance, and he met with the same end as many another Ottoman official of earlier days, the fatal "bowstring" (or, more accurately, silken cord). We may say in conclusion that his character, as well as his whole career, was quite in keeping with the times and the surroundings in which he lived. However Turks and Roumanians may feel about his memory, to the Greeks he remains a benefactor, and therefore a credit to his nation. This last point of view is that of his biographer.

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